

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

### **1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicants have amended claims **1, 4, 9, 12, 17, 20, 25, and 28**. Accordingly, claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### **2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hariguchi (US 6,181,698) in view of Ramasubramani (US 6,507,589). The Applicants have amended the claims to better distinguish the claimed invention from Hariguchi and Ramasubramani. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Amended claims 1 and 25 advantageously disclose a method and a system for routing a message to a function instance wherein the function instance is associated with a label, wherein the function instance and the label are an instantiation of a function and a state related to the function, and wherein the function instance has a thread of execution that operates on the state to route the message. Amended claim 9 and 17 disclose a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium and an apparatus for routing a message to a function instance wherein the function instance is associated with a label, and wherein the function instance and the label are an instantiation of a function and a state related to the function.

Support for these limitations can be found at least in paragraph's [0017], [0024], [0025], and [0026] of the instant invention. Neither Hariguchi nor Ramasubramani, alone or in combination, disclose a function instance associated with a label, wherein the function instance and the label are an instantiation of a function and a state related to the function, and wherein the function instance has a thread of execution that operates on the state to route the message.

Claims 4, 12, 20, and 28 were amended as the relationship between the function instance and the label was more clearly defined in their respective, currently amended, independent claims.

Applicants believe currently amended independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 25, as well as the claims that depend from them are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the allowance of claims is respectfully requested.

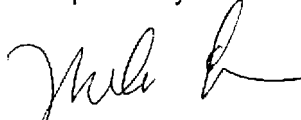
### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-30.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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